

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)	CONSENT ORDER OF
Revocation of the Educator Certificate)	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF
of Darrell Ware Ricketts)	ADMINISTRATIVE CERTIFICATION
Certificate 141674)	AND PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 12, 2005. On September 22, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina educator certificate 141674 to Darrell Ware Ricketts by certified mail, return receipt requested. Mr. Ricketts received the notice letter as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. Mr. Ricketts requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to the voluntary surrender of his areas of administration certification: Secondary Principal, Secondary Supervisor and Vocational Center Director. Mr. Ricketts also agreed to the issuance of a Public Reprimand. Mr. Ricketts will retain his current teaching certification. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of Mr. Rickett's three areas of administrative certification and to issue the public reprimand.

Darrell
Ware
Ricketts
141674

Initials

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Darrell Ricketts has over 19 years of teaching and administrative experience. During the 2003-04 school year, Mr. Ricketts was the Principal at Aynor High School in the Horry County School District (District). In the summer of 2004, the District informed Mr. Ricketts of an investigation involving student records at Aynor High School. Mr. Ricketts cooperated fully with the investigation. On August 23, 2004, Mr. Ricketts agreed to be reassigned to a teaching position in the District. Mr. Ricketts acknowledged that he granted course credit, changed grades and promoted students, but stated that his actions

were based on his desire to address certain students' needs. The District determined that Mr. Rickett's actions on behalf of these students exceeded his authority as a principal and violated District policy.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). The State Board finds that there is substantial evidence to support its decision to accept the voluntary surrender of Mr. Ricketts' administrative certification and to issue a public reprimand. Notice of the voluntary surrender and the public reprimand will be sent to all school districts in South Carolina and maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. Notice of the voluntary surrender also will be sent to the NASDTEC clearinghouse. Mr. Ricketts will retain his current teaching certification, but he may not apply for any additional areas of certification until the conclusion of a five-year period, on or after April 11, 2010. However, should he choose to do so, Mr. Ricketts must meet all current certification requirements and pass a character and fitness review, as determined by the State Board of Education.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

April 12, 2005

I, Darrell W. Ricketts, SC Teaching Certificate 141674, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of Administrative Certification and Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on April 12, 2005

/S/ Darrell W. Ricketts
Darrell W. Ricketts

4/11/05
Date